

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
a means for detecting speech of a user who is reading out loud;
a means for evaluating the user's reading skill; and
a means for making [reading] recommendations of books to read based on the evaluating means.
2. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising means for adjusting a level profile of a book being read.
3. (previously presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein the book is an electronic book.
4. (currently amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising means for providing feedback [on] to the user.
5. (previously presented) The system of Claim 4, wherein the feedback is a progress report.
6. (previously presented) The system of Claim 4, wherein the feedback is a comparison with peers.
7. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising means for providing marketing data.

8. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
a speech recognition system operable to provide an estimate of speech;
an evaluation device operable to convert the estimate of speech into [an item] a score;
and
a recommendation device operable to use the [item] score to provide a [reading]
recommendation of books to read.

9. (previously presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the speech recognition system estimates linguistic content of the speech.

10. (previously presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the estimate of speech is a sequence of words in a machine recognizable format.

11. (previously presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein the machine recognizable format is ASCII.

12. (previously presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the evaluation device includes a response database.

13. (previously presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein the response database includes a correct response.

14. (previously presented) The system of Claim 13, wherein the correct response is a sample provided by sample speakers that represents a correct reading of text.

15. (previously presented) The system of Claim 13, wherein the correct response is provided only by the text.

16. (currently amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein the [item] score is calculated using Item Response Theory.

17. (currently amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein the [item] score is a number of differences between speech and a correct response.

[17] 18. (currently amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein the recommendation device is operable to use the item score to adjust a level profile of an electronic book.

19. (previously presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the recommendation device is operable to provide feedback to a user.

20. (previously presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the recommendation device is operable to provide marketing data.

21. (previously presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the recommendation device accesses at least one database.

22. (previously presented) The system of Claim 21, wherein the at least one database includes a book database.

23. (previously presented) The system of Claim 22, wherein the book database contains several versions of a book.

24. (previously presented) The system of Claim 23, wherein the several versions of the book include versions of the book with different level profiles.

25. (previously presented) The system of Claim 22, wherein the book database contains a memory pointer capable of tracking in several versions of a book where a user is reading.

26. (previously presented) The system of Claim 25, wherein the several versions of the book contain linkage points.

27. (previously presented) The system of Claim 26, wherein the recommendation device uses the linkage points to switch between the several versions of the book.

28. (previously presented) The system of Claim 21, wherein the at least one database includes a user database.

29. (previously presented) The system of Claim 28, wherein the user database includes data selected from the group consisting of user identification, history of evaluations, history of books read, user preferences, and responses to questions.

30. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
a speech recognition system operable to provide an estimate of linguistic content of speech, and wherein the estimate is a sequence of words in a machine recognizable format;
an evaluation device operable to convert the estimate of the linguistic content of speech into an item score, wherein the item score is calculated using Item Response Theory, and wherein the item score is a number of differences between speech and a correct response;
and
a recommendation device operable to use the item score to provide a [reading] recommendation of books to read, wherein the recommendation device accesses a book database containing several versions of a book, and wherein the recommendation device accesses a user database.

31. (previously presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the recommendation device is operable to use the item score to adjust a level profile of an electronic book.

32. (previously presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the recommendation device is operable to provide feedback to a user.

33. (previously presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the recommendation device is operable to provide marketing data.

34. (currently amended) A method of providing an automatic reading system, comprising in combination:

reading text into a speech detector;

estimating linguistic content of [speech] the text as read;

converting [an] the estimate into [an item] a score; and

providing a [reading] recommendation of books to read based on the score.

35. (previously presented) The method of Claim 34, further comprising adjusting a level profile of an electronic book.

36. (previously presented) The method of Claim 34, further comprising providing feedback to a user.

37. (previously presented) The method of Claim 34, further comprising providing marketing data.

38. (previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the speech detector converts speech into electrical signals.

39. (previously presented) The method of Claim 38, wherein a speech recognition system uses the electrical signals to estimate the linguistic content of speech.

40. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein the [item] score is calculated using Item Response Theory.

41. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein the [item] score is a number of differences between speech and a correct response.

42. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
a client device including a display and a speech detector; and
a server device operable to detect speech from a user reading from a book presented on the display, wherein the [sever] server device evaluates the speech, and wherein the server device provides [reading] recommendations of books to read to the user.

43. (previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the display is a device selected from the group consisting of a wireless handheld device, a personal digital assistant, a monitor, a personal computer, a digital data reader, an electronic book, and a document.

44. (previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the speech detector is a device selected from the group consisting of a telephone, a mobile telephone, a microphone, and a voice transducer.

45. (previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the client device communicates with the server device using a network.

46. (previously presented) The system of Claim 45, wherein the network is a public switched telephone network.

47. (previously presented) The system of Claim 45, wherein the network is a packet-switched network.

48. (previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the server device adjusts a level profile of an electronic book.

49. (previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the server device provides feedback to the user.

50. (previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the server device provides marketing data.

51. (new) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:

a database of electronic books;

a client device associated with the database, wherein the client device includes a display and a speech detector; and

a recommendation module associated with at least one of the client device and the database, wherein the recommendation module recommends electronic books from the database based upon a user's reading level.

52. (new) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:

a means for detecting speech of a user who is reading an electronic book out loud;

a means for evaluating the user's reading skill based upon the user reading out loud; and

a means for adjusting a level profile of the electronic book based on the evaluating means.

53. (new) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:

a speech recognition system operable to provide an estimate of speech;

an evaluation device operable to convert the estimate of speech into a score; and
a recommendation device operable to use the score to adjust a level profile of an
electronic book.

54. (new) The system of Claim 53, wherein the recommendation device accesses at least one database.

55. (new) The system of Claim 54, wherein the at least one database includes a book database.

56. (new) The system of Claim 55, wherein the book database contains several versions of a book.

57. (new) The system of Claim 56, wherein the several versions of the book include versions of the book with different level profiles.

58. (new) The system of Claim 55, wherein the book database contains a memory pointer capable of tracking in several versions of a book where a user is reading.

59. (new) The system of Claim 58, wherein the several versions of the book contain linkage points.

60. (new) The system of Claim 59, wherein the recommendation device uses the linkage points to switch between the several versions of the book.

61. (new) A method of providing an automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
reading text from an electronic book out loud into a speech detector;
estimating linguistic content of the text as read;
converting the estimate into a score; and
adjusting a level profile of the electronic book in accordance with the score.

62. (new) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
a client device including a display and a speech detector; and
a server device operable to detect speech from a user reading out loud from an electronic book, wherein the server device evaluates the speech, and wherein the server device adjusts a level profile of the electronic book.

63. (new) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
a database of electronic books;
a client device associated with the database, wherein the client device includes a display and a speech detector; and
a recommendation module associated with at least one of the client device and the database, wherein the recommendation module adjusts a level profile of the electronic books based upon a user's reading level.